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RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 001058

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR S/USSES AND IO

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [UN](#)

SUBJECT: SUDANESE FOREIGN MINISTER AGREES TO GO TO UNGA

REF: KHARTOUM 1049

Classified By: CDA REWhitehead for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (C) In a September 15 meeting with Charge, Sudanese Foreign Minister Deng Alor said that he had agreed to join the GOS delegation to the United National General Assembly (UNGA) on the condition that he would not be expected to deliver the Sudanese speech. Deng confided that neither he nor First Vice President Kiir, who had also been short-listed to head the Sudanese delegation, was eager to stand up in front of the world and speak out against the International Criminal Court indictment of President Bashir or deliver the annual apologia for Khartoum. Deng said he had offered to join Second Vice President Taha in a scheduled trip to Caracas instead but canceled his participation and rejoined the UNGA delegation after Presidential Adviser Dr. Ghazi Salah Eddin was named head of the UNGA delegation (reftel).

¶2. (C) Deng said that he had just returned from a meeting between Bashir and visiting South African Foreign Minister Maite Nkoana Mashabane during which she had reminded Bashir of South Africa's experience seeking justice in the wake of apartheid and suggested that South Africa could offer Sudan good advice on pursuing justice in the context of the conflict in Darfur. Deng said that at the close of the meeting Bashir remarked that he had heard that Deng was going to New York after all, although not as head of delegation. "As my foreign minister, I assume you will deliver the Sudanese speech anyway?" Bashir queried. When Deng responded in the negative, Bashir simply laughed.

¶3. (C) Comment. Both Kiir and Deng apparently view the UNGA speech more as a hot potato than an opportunity. In spite of the Sudanese Peoples Liberation Movement's (SPLM) putative partnership with Bashir and his National Congress Party, none of the senior SPLM officials in the Government of National Unity has to date been willing to speak out strongly in Bashir's defense.

WHITEHEAD